SUBJECT No. 157.

Accommodation for 3rd. class passengers in Railway carriages.

Messrs. Devasettappa and Veere Gouda, Dodballapur Taluk; Madappa N. Setwaji Rao, Settappa Siddappa and Dharma Prakasa D. Banumiah, Mysore City Municipality and N. Srinivasa Iyengar, Seringapatam Taluk.

Mr. Setwaji Rao.—In railway carriages, passengers are usually seated without regard to the number prescribed by the rules. Further, they are huddled in waggons also, apparently for want of accommodation. Arrangements may be made to remedy the evil.

Second Member of Council.—During festival times it is the custom everywhere to huddle passengers in goods waggons for want of sufficient number of 3rd class carriages. Our present rolling stock is very inadequate to accommodate thousands of passengers during festival times. We had ordered for 5 engines, but with the greatest difficulty, we were able to get only 2 Till our existing condition of rolling stock is improved, it is not possible to avoid occasional overcrowding

SUBJECT No. 158.

Running more trains on State Railways.

Messrs. Devasettappa and Veere Gouda, Doballapur Taluk; Basavarajiah and Dasappa, Channapatna Municipality; Linge Gowda, Krishnarajapete Taluk; A. Narniengar and B. Suryanarayana Rao, Hassan Taluk; Mahommed Raza, Hassan Municipality and H. Maralu Siddappa, Arsikere Taluk.

Mr. A. Naranaiengar.—Arrangements may be made to run a passenger train on the Mysore-Arsikere Railway.

Second Member of Council.—I have already stated the difficulties under which the Mysore Government is labouring in connection with the rolling stock, engine power and the high price of coal. Unless we have a sufficient quantity of rolling stock and engine power, it is not possible to run any new trains. When these are available, Government will give all facilities.

SUBJECT No. 159.

Providing waiting rooms at Maddur and Seringapatam Railway Stations.

Mr. S. A. Javaraiya, Seringapatam Taluk.

Mr. V. Rangaswamiengar.—A 3rd class Waiting Room at Maddur and a 1st and 2nd class Ladies' Waiting Rooms at Seringapatam may be constructed.

Second Member of Council.—An estimate has been prepared by the Railway Department for the construction of waiting rooms at Maddur and Seringapatam.

LOCAL SELF—GOVERNMENT.

(Nos. 160 to 176).

SUBJECT No. 160.

Concession to Minor Municipalities.

Messrs. (1) Phaniachar, Hosdurga Taluk, B. Srinivasa Iyengar, R. Subba Rao, Anekal Taluk; Gubbiah, Anekal Municipality and Raja Narasiah, Thyamagondlu Municipality.

Mr. B. Srinivasiengar.—I beg to submit that a more liberal treatment of Minor Municipalities is necessary. Whereas district head-quarter and city municipalities may at any time bring to the notice of Government their wants and obtain relief, the taluk head-quarter and other minor municipalities do not enjoy this privilege. There is thus no equality of treatment between these two kinds of Municipalities, as urged at the last April Session of this Assembly,

especially in regard to education and medical relief. Government say that Local Fund Dispensaries must be self-maintained. This will be possible in the case of district head-quarter municipalities with their large revenues but not in the case of minor bodies with their limited sources of income. Unlike the larger municipalities, their main grievance is when a third of the cost of medical relief is not granted to them. They request that a definite percentage of contribution be fixed in regard to both kinds of Municipalities. Government frequently refer to the absence of any revision of house-tax on the part of minor municipalities and urge this as a justification for a denial of all claims to State aid. May I, in this connection, invite attention to the opinion of Mr. J. D. Sifton, I.C.S., as expressed in his 'Local Government in England'? Says Mr. Sifton :

"The sources of revenue in India of all spending authorities from the Local Government downwards are practically inelastic. The expenditure of the Local Government has been strictly limited by the Financial settlements received from the Government of India and they have no power to add to their income except by developing the assigned heads of revenue. Similarly, District Boards have been restricted to a local cess of one anna and no matter what the needs of districts may be, they have no power to develop their revenues. In England, wherever Parliament imposes an obligation upon a local body, that body is at the same time authorised to raise without restriction whatever money is necessary to carry out the duty. There is no limit imposed upon the general rates which the local authorities can raise without reference to any superior authority. Their budgets are prepared in exactly the converse way from those of the local bodies in India by first ascertaining what is required to maintain efficiently the services undertaken. This system is an essential condition of local authorities being required by Statute to provide adequately for such matters as Education, Sanitation, etc., Those local bodies which are well forward with their schemes of future improvements obtain unexpected windfalls from the lump-grants placed at the disposal of the Local Governments while other bodies which may be far more backward and more necessitous obtain nothing because they have not any approved schemes ready for immediate expenditure."

Till now, small municipalities in our State were able to secure sweepers on Rs 3, 4, 5, and so on, but now these are not available even for Rs. 10 each. They

have not enough funds to meet even the normal expenditure. Their income under house-tax is reduced to one-half on account of altered rules; and that under octroi is practically nothing. Trade is reduced to its minimum. They are thus unable to derive any additional income and to meet even their normal expenditure. Taking the Sarjapur Municipality, for instance, a sum of Rs. 400 is contributed towards Medical Aid while the number of people in that area is 2,000. The remaining portion of its income is quite inadequate for the proper discharge of all its duties. Further, in the case of minor municipalities, local cess is deducted from the excise revenue and the difficulty is thus aggravated.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—In western countries, municipalities are of two kinds: monarchical and republican. Republican municipalities do not require and are not given any Government help. Our municipalities, however, belong to the first category. When municipalities are bound to carry out the instructions of Government in municipal affairs, it is but right that the latter should give liberal subsidies to the former for the purpose.

Second Member of Council.—Government realize the inconveniences that minor municipalities are labouring under and will be glad if definite proposals are submitted in each particular case for consideration.

Mr. Srinivasiengar.—I beg permission also to request that these villages must first be surveyed and that every year the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Engineer should be asked to visit 10 or 15 villages and halt for 2 or 3 days in each village in order to consult local bodies as to what improvements are necessary and possible. The idea is there, of course, but intimation is not usually received before these officers visit villages. In view of the fact that the Vice-Presidents and important residents of minor municipalities have to attend District Board and other meetings outside their own places, previous intimation seems essential.

Second Member of Council.—Government will issue instructions to the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer accordingly.

Third Member of Council.—On the other hand, the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer complain that Presidents and Vice-Presidents do not accompany them while on visits and that sufficient co-operation is not being received from them. The

suggestion now given is quite easy to accept and will be done. Municipal Councils may hold necessary consultations with these officers and submit suitable resolutions to Government for acceptance in matters such as education and medical relief.

SUBJECT No. 161.

Abolition of Professional tax.

Messrs. Madappa, Settappa-Siddappa, Setwaji Rao and Dharma Prakasa D. Banumiah, Mysore City Municipality.

Mr. Madappa.—Professional tax is proposed to be levied on merchants in addition to income-tax. This is unjustifiable and the idea may be given up.

Second Member of Council.—This is not a subject to be brought up before this meeting. The Municipal Council is the proper place where such questions could be decided.

SUBJECT No. 162.

Appointment of a Commissioner for Municipalities.

Mr. Singri Nanjappa, Tiptur Municipality.

A Commissioner of Municipalities invested with full powers may be appointed for the State to bring into proper working order all the municipalities in the State.

Second Member of Council.—You ask for retrenchment and now you ask for a separate officer.

Chief Secretary to Government.—There is practically no difference between a Commissioner and the Government. By appointing a Commissioner, matters will be only delayed.

Second Member of Council.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 163.

Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Municipalities.

Messrs. Karnik Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi Taluk; P. Muthiah and Dase Gouda, Channapatna Taluk; and C. Rasul Khan, Anjuman-e-Islamia, Chikmagalur.

Mr. Karnic Krishnamurti Rao.—Deputy Commissioners may be appointed as Presidents and Amildars as Vice-Presidents of Taluk Municipalities as before. This is very necessary as the present state of affairs is not quite satisfactory.

Second Member of Council.—The object of the Local Self-Government scheme is to give as much independence as possible to the people. If the Deputy Commissioner is made the President of the Municipality, he will not find sufficient time to attend to all the meetings as there will be 7 or 8 taluks in a District. The Deputy Commissioner will be the President only in name.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry.—Sub-Division Officers may be Presidents of Town Municipalities. It is of no use whatever to appoint non-official Vice-Presidents.

Mr. Singri Nanjappa.—The President of a Municipality should always be a non-official. We can have a paid Vice-President.